REMARKS

The Official Action dated February 15, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 8 and 10 have been amended in order to better define that which Applicants regard as the invention. As previously, claims 8 and 10 are presently pending in the instant application.

With reference now to the Official Action and particularly page 2 thereof, claims 8 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,917,109 issued to Berkey in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,820,322 issued to Baumgart. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the combination proposed by the Examiner neither discloses nor suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

As can be seen from the foregoing amendments, independent claim 8 has been amended to recite a method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform using a rod-in-tube method wherein the glass pipe and the glass rod are configured to move at feeding speeds which differ from one another. Clearly, the combination proposed by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest such features.

As noted in Applicants' specification at at least pages 28-30 and particularly page 28, lines 1-7, lines 20-31 and page 29, lines 26-31, the feed rates of the glass pipe 1 and the glass rod 2 can differ from one another. Particularly, as noted in lines 20-31 of page 28, in a state wherein the glass rod 2 has been inserted into the glass pipe 1, the glass pipe 1 and the glass rod 2 are moved downwards while the pressure inside the glass pipe 1 is reduced by the pressure reducing device, and at this time the feed rate V_R of the glass rod 2 is set so that it is faster than the feed rate V_P of the glass pipe 1. Thus the outer diameter of the glass rod 2 at

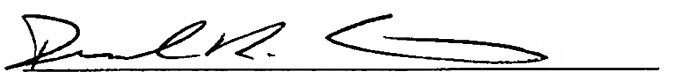
the position where the glass rod 2 is formed into a single unit with the glass pipe 1 becomes the outer diameter d1 of the glass rod 2 that is necessary to achieve the set C/C for the optical fiber preform 4. Furthermore, it is noted on page 29, lines 26-31 that adjusting the feed rate V_R of the glass rod by increasing or decreasing it, an optical fiber preform having a desired C/C can be manufactured even if the core diameter, the C/C, or the refractive index difference between the core and the cladding in the glass rod 2 change in the longitudinal direction. It is also noted on page 30 that it is possible to adjust the feed rate of the glass pipe instead of adjusting the feed rate V_R of the glass rod 2. Accordingly, Applicants' claimed invention is clearly supported by Applicants' specification.

With respect to the teachings of Berkey and Baumgart, it is respectfully submitted that each of these references fail to disclose or even remotely suggest that the glass pipe and the glass rod are fed at feeding speeds that differ from one another as now recited in independent claim 8. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 8, as well as independent claim 10, wherein the glass pipe and the glass rod are configured to move at feeding speeds that differ from one another, Applicants' claimed invention clearly distinguishes over the combination proposed by the Examiner and is in proper condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the objection of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 8 and 19 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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